

LEAD TESTING IN SCHOOLS TRAINING WORKSHOP INTRODUCTION



*TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WATER SUPPLY DIVISION*



What is TCEQ?

- Environmental agency for the state
 - *Goal: Clean air, clean water, and the safe management of waste.*
 - *<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/>*
- Central office in Austin & 16 regional office across Texas
- TCEQ Office of Water – helps administer the regulatory program for ~7,000 state *public water systems (PWSs)*

Governing Regulations for Public Water Systems



- **Federal:** regulations developed by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974
- **State:** regulations overseen and enforced by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
 - Texas Administrative Code

Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) for PWSs



- Since 1991, the LCR focuses on controlling corrosion within the distribution system that delivers water to customers
- LCR sets *action levels* for lead and copper
 - Screening tool for determining when certain treatment technique actions are needed
 - Based on practical feasibility of reducing lead though controlling corrosion

Action levels: Lead - 0.015 mg/L | Copper - 1.3 mg/L

Lead and Copper Rule (LCR)



- Under LCR, PWSs have a tap sample monitoring schedule
 - Sample sites represent locations that may be particularly susceptible to high lead/copper amounts using “tiered” system
 - Primary locations are individual residences
- Sample results determine if an action level has been exceeded or not
- If >10% results are above an action level, then PWSs have additional requirements

What about Schools?



- There is no federal or state law or regulations that requires that all schools be tested for lead.
 - For most schools, testing is voluntary.
- The LCR is focused primarily on residential locations

Some Schools Regulated by TCEQ Under the LCR



- Some Texas schools have their own source of drinking water and are regulated under the LCR as a PWS
- The LCR requires these systems to sample from buildings that contain lead pipes/service lines or copper pipe with lead solder
- The TCEQ schedules and determines compliance just like any other PWS

Majority of Schools Not Regulated by TCEQ



- The vast majority of schools in Texas receive water from a *community* PWS
- The LCR requires these systems to collect samples primarily from single family homes with lead pipes/service lines or copper pipe with lead solder
- TCEQ encourages PWSs to have schools as sample sites when possible, but this is not mandatory under the LCR

THE EPA “3Ts” Guidance



- *Training* Focuses on raising awareness of how lead gets into drinking water, the health effects of lead, and assist school officials in identifying potential areas where high lead levels may occur.
- *Testing* Underscores the importance of monitoring lead levels in school facility drinking water to identify and respond to any existing problems.
- *Telling* Communicating to students, parents, staff, and the community about the monitoring program, potential risks, test results, and remediation actions.

Purpose of Today's Workshop



- TCEQ is committed to the health of Texas children and safe drinking water in schools.
- Provide information and guidance to school officials based on EPA's 3Ts so that they may:
 - Make decisions about the identification of lead levels in the drinking water of their facilities
 - Take appropriate actions to address any identified concerns

Resources and Funding



- TCEQ:

https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/chemicals/lead_copper/lead-testing-in-schools-outreach-project

- USEPA:

Lead in Drinking Water in Schools :

<https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-drinking-water-schools-and-childcare-facilities>

Water Quality Funding Sources for Schools:

<https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/water-quality-funding-sources-schools-resource-k-12-schools-and-child-care-facilities>

USEPA Guidance



- All references in today's workshop are found in the USEPA's *3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools*.